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The Place of the Macedonian Rumanians

in the

Lectures on Movement (Iron Guard)

APR 26 1963

DOC. MICRO by Constantin Papanice

("Conference on the 20th Anniversary  
of our Struggle for the  
Region and Capital")

More than 20 years ago the first group of Macedonian Rumanians met the Leader [Corneliu Zelea Codreanu] <sup>don't mind this name</sup> and accepted his principles. The evil circumstances under which we now live, as well as the current international tension, prevents the commemoration of this event in the manner befitting its importance. ~~On this occasion~~ <sup>On this occasion</sup> we shall go back to the day which marked the regeneration of the Macedonian Rumanian people.

A day like this brings sad memories. It is not easy to recall that many of our close friends are no longer here, and that those who have miraculously survived the ordeal of the <sup>imprisonment</sup> ~~penitentiaries~~ are now aged and gray. Yet, we ask for no pity; on the contrary, we are proud that those who started the fight over 20 years ago had that ~~strength~~ <sup>perseverance</sup> which our Leader considered man's strongest quality.

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I. The Meeting at the Prison

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I met the Leader 20 years ago in the <sup>cell</sup> ~~last~~ of the

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Vacaresti prison. I met other young men <sup>from</sup> of the Pindus Mountains, like Papanace, <sup>cied</sup> Garanica, <sup>cied</sup> Piku, <sup>cied</sup> Mamali, <sup>cied</sup> Anton Ciumeti, <sup>cied</sup> Ficata, <sup>cied</sup> Chitea, and found them truly chosen people, of undaunted courage and personal sacrifice. Also there I met <sup>cied</sup> Sterie Ciumeti, the greatest martyr of the Legionnaire Movement, who, because of his high principles, suffered torture and death.

The one and one half months spent with our Leader in the Vacaresti prison was a period of great moral reinforcement. Almost at once, our thoughts and ambitions were united as one. We vowed to fight for our national heritage, for Rumanians in the Pindus, and for Rumanians everywhere, so that one day we might be reunited again in a strong and free country.

## II. In the footsteps of the Leader

The strong, idealistic ties which we formed while in prison were so lasting as to spur us into our Leader's footsteps. We vowed to fight for all our brethren of Macedonian origin and established <sup>the following</sup> rules whereby to guide ourselves:

1. No action should be commenced until the level of leadership is improved.

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2. There must be a strong nucleus to act as the rejuvenating ~~factor~~ for the Rumanian people.
  3. The Macedonian Rumanians must not make mass emigrations into Rumania, because of the rigorous persecutions by the Government.
  4. The young people must be given a thorough education. *ethical*  
*and must be combined with heroic idealism.*
- We decided to follow in the footsteps of our Leader.

Shortly after our prison release, we organized a Legionnaire base in Bucharest on Calea Victoriei, above the pharmacy of Gucci. The date was 8 November, 1930.

Most of the university students were ardent followers of Cuza, but enough adherents were found among students of Macedonian origin. They formed the basic strata of our beginnings. Month by month new leaders were found, such as  
*cied* Ianou Caramica, *cied* Doru Belimace, *cied* Sterie Ciumat, *cied* Grigore Pihu,  
*cied* Gheorghe and *cied* Ion Chitea, *cied* Sterie Vioata, *cied* Ionel Nacu, and many others. These joined the first followers of our Leader, men like *cied* Andrei Ionescu, *cied* Ion Belges, *cied* Nicolae Tetu, *cied* Traian Cetiga, *cied* Jenica Bordeianu, *cied* Iordache Nicodan, *cied* Caratanase, *cied* Simion Lefter, *cied* I. Costea, *cied* Sevin Virgil Radulescu, etc.

Referring to the *early* ~~beginning~~ days of the "Iron Guard" the Leader wrote: "It is not wise to enroll the entire masses of newly arrived Macedonian Rumanians into the Guard, because they have already suffered a great deal. We shall

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limit our numbers, at first, only to Rumanian university students. However, since many Macedonian Rumanians possess exceptional intelligence and culture, I have chosen Papanace, Caranica and Sterie Ciumatii as my closest advisors and companions. Of these three, Sterie Ciumatii lives day and night with me. He is a person of immense correctness and iron faith. We appointed him treasurer of the 'Guard.' All the days that are still remaining to him will be spent in the furtherance and strengthening of the Guard."

### III. A Deep Feeling for the Macedonian Rumanians

#### a). The Legionnaire Movement.

To all the people from the Pindus and Macedonia, the Legionnaire Movement meant a continuation and a strengthening of their fight for freedom. <sup>Inspired by</sup> ~~Seeing~~ the idealistic <sup>spirit</sup> ~~and~~ of our Leader, they regained new hope from their previous failures and harsh oppression.

#### b). The Idealistic tendencies of the Macedonian Rumanians.

The Macedonian Rumanian temperament is basically idealistic but is not wholly <sup>Lacking in</sup> ~~deprived of~~ realism. This temperament is evidenced not only in our Leader, but also in people from all walks of life, from the extravagant banker to the frugal merchant.

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Rumanians of Macedonian origin have always played an important role in the political, philanthropic and religious development of the country. Instances of this are quite common. For example, in the war for Serbian independence, Macedonian Rumanians like <sup>cied</sup>Tintar Ianou, <sup>cied</sup>Tintar Marou, V. <sup>cied</sup>Gheorghievici, <sup>cied</sup>Nicolici, Vaso <sup>cied</sup>Popovici, <sup>cied</sup>Nusici and others played a vital role. The principal culture centers of Bucharest, "Ateneul Roman", "Dalles," and Simu" were all founded by Macedonian Rumanians. Even the Patriarch and Bishop of Greece <sup>are natives of</sup> ~~originated from~~ the Rumanian region of Greece.

c). Adaptability to Environment.

The Macedonian Rumanians have the inherent ability to adapt themselves to any environment where they may be; only in this way can they affirm themselves under trying circumstances. Yet, in spite of their adaptability to surroundings, the Macedonian Rumanians retained their ethnic originality at all times.

d). Dynamic force of our Leader's thinking.

<sup>To</sup> Following the thought expressed by E. I. Rinescu, "from the <sup>Dniester</sup> ~~Nister~~ to the Tisa" the Leader added: "from the <sup>Dniester</sup> ~~Nister~~ to the Pindus." This expression had a widespread echo in the heart of every Rumanian. The whole pattern of the Legionnaire Movement was based on a pattern of <sup>integrity</sup> ~~correctness~~ and <sup>personal</sup> ~~subjective~~ discipline.

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It was guided by old laws, stating basic democratic truths, and highlighting the simple way of life of <sup>our</sup> the Rumanian forefathers.

IV. Defending the Legionnaire Principles.

All loyal "Iron Guard" members have the sacred duty of defending the principles of our Leader and of serving the cause. Whoever rises against the moral principles of the leader, rises, in effect against the future of the Rumanian people.

V. A Mission for the Future.

The Macedonian Rumanians, if fortified by Legionnaire thinking, can become in time the <sup>Sole</sup> ~~only~~ pioneers of the democratic way of life, such as was <sup>practiced</sup> ~~was~~ by the mountain villages and towns of the past. It is our strong hope that the regeneration movement which grew sporadically in the past may <sup>spread substantially</sup> ~~attain an organized~~ and become <sup>better organized</sup> ~~and widespread sphere~~ in the future.

<sup>Guiding</sup>  
VI. Principles on which to act.

The principles on which the whole action of the Legionnaire Movement will be based in the future must be respected and adhered to wholeheartedly. In essence, they are the same principles which our Leader set forth; laws of discipline, of <sup>work</sup> ~~labor~~, of education, of mutual aid, and of honor. These are more <sup>than</sup> ideas. They are indispensable principles

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on which to pattern our actions and our lives. Accordingly, the following advice will be of assistance to all Rumanians of Macedonian origin:

1. Wherever you may be, don't lose your Macedonian Rumanian identity.
2. ~~Know well~~ your early years and your youth, for it was these that set your pattern for life.
3. Remember that any place in the Balkans is your home, for this is the <sup>birthplace</sup> place of your ancestors.
4. Your historical mission in life is to bring honor to <sup>Thyaco - Ilyria</sup> your ~~ancestors~~ ancestors and to realize the inherent political unity of your people.
5. Think always in terms of the greater Wallachia.
6. Be proud of your noble ancestry.
7. Keep an austere sobriety.
8. Know the value of every coin. Be frugal.
9. Respect your elders and listen to their counsel.
10. Suppress any ~~evil~~ thoughts <sup>dangerous to the</sup> ~~adverse to those of your~~ <sup>welfare of the</sup> people.
11. Give up a portion of your individual liberty for the benefit of the collective freedom of your people.
12. Keep in touch with your close ones, wherever you may be, and help them in times of need.
13. Be present and active in all endeavors for the good of your nation.
14. Be upstanding and honest with all; give each his own due.

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15. Count only on your own strength.
16. Be respectful, kind, and of good cheer. Be sympathetic.
17. Be grateful to those who were of help to your people.
18. Never remain in debt.
19. Come to the aid of your nation wherever you may be.
20. Do not fight for principles detrimental to your people.
21. In whatever nation you may be, look for your own countrymen and keep together.
22. Fight for the solidarity of the Macedonian Rumanians.
23. Encourage and help your own countrymen to achieve success, for their achievements will bring glory to you.
24. ~~Never engage in a quarrel with your fellow Rumanians.~~ *Do not ever make enemies of your fellow Rumanians; you may need their aid.*
25. Fight for individual freedoms, equality, and brotherhood.
26. Have faith in the future of your people.

VII -- Tribute to Party Martyrs.

Due homage must be paid to the numerous party martyrs who gave their life for the cause, men like Iancu Caranice, Doru Helimace, Sterie Ciometti, Grigore Pihu, and last of all our Leader. It is these men that receive our homage today.

Constantin Papanace

July 1950

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